

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK**  
**STATE OF MONTANA**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Montana Unemployment Rate Stable At 5.2 Percent**

HELENA -- Montana's unemployment rate held steady at 5.2 percent in November. Montana's unemployment rate has declined by half a percent over the last year. The national unemployment rate remains higher than Montana's rate at 7.0 percent in November, down 0.3 percentage points from the prior month.

"Montana's economy continues to perform better than the rest of the nation, slowly but surely adding jobs for our workers" Governor Steve Bullock said. "Strong retail sales during this holiday season will help our economy gain momentum for the next year."

"Retailers hired more workers this holiday season than in prior years, which suggests greater confidence in our stronger economy" said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy.

Total employment, which includes payroll employment plus agricultural and self-employed workers, added 856 jobs in November. Although employment continues to expand in Montana during 2013, the job growth rate of 0.4 percent this year is slower than the above-average job growth of 2.2 percent during 2012.

Payroll employment indicate that job growth in the private sector was much stronger than growth overall. Private payroll employment increased by 1,400 jobs over the month, with broad-based gains over all sectors. Seasonal hiring in the retail sector is larger than prior years, suggesting retailers are expecting a stronger holiday sales season. Job losses in government offset the private sector job gains, with a loss of 700 jobs over the month in state and local government. All payroll jobs (both private and public) increased by 700 jobs since October.

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) was unchanged in November. Energy prices declined, which offset increases in the food index. Core inflation, measured by the all items less food and energy index, rose by 0.2 percent in November, keeping inflation below historic levels.

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*\*\* Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau at 1-800-541-3904.*

**The next Labor Situation Report will be released on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, instead of the usual Friday.**

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***



Visit our website at [www.lmi.mt.gov](http://www.lmi.mt.gov) for additional information and analysis, including industry employment levels, background on the unemployment rate, and annual employment data for Montana's Indian Reservations. **This month's Economy At a Glance article is a must-read for history buffs interested in historic occupations that are obsolete today.** County

unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted and should be compared to the unadjusted statewide unemployment rate of **5.0** percent. County labor force information can be found by using this link:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=205>.

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